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CHAPTER III.

"Oh, Mademoiselle Yolande!" his mother goes on carelessly, with a good-natured smile. "She is a non-entity at present, a virgin page, white and unwritten, character, figure, and mind alike totally unformed. Poor dear child, we shall mould her into something very different by and by!"

"I dare say we shall," Dallas muttered under his mustache.

"She has small bones, fortunately," Lady Nora adds, in a tone of satisfaction.

"Small bones?" repeats Dallas, staring.

"Yes," says Lady Nora, smiling, but speaking very seriously. "It's such a blessing to a girl of—well, the class of nouveaux riches—when she has small bones! She can be modelled and moulded into a good figure, taught to pose nicely, and never gets the horribly vulgar, portly appearance that a big-boned, broad-shouldered woman is apt to get when past her first youth. I noticed our dear mademoiselle very closely, I assure you, Dallas," Lady Nora adds, with a self-congratulatory laugh. "She has small bones and long, slender limbs, and good eyes, and fine, dark hair. I shouldn't wonder at all if in a year or two she was transformed into a most graceful, symmetrical figure, with a face not handsome, you

know, but peculiar, striking looking—some people say that is far better than the ordinary everyday sort of beauty," Lady Nora adds, reassuringly; and a trown of scornful impatience darkens Dallas Glynne's clear, gray-blue eyes.

"It is comforting to hear of such delightful possibilities," he rejoins, frigidly; and Lady Nora laughing nervously, discreetly decided to change the subject.

"Of the family group there remains only mademoiselle, the French governess, to be accounted for," her ladyship adds.

"And, if I were Miss Dormer's confidential friend, as you appear to be, madame mite," Dallas says, coolly, "I should make mademoiselle, the French governess, account for herself, and very closely, too."

"Nonsense, Dallas!" responded Lady Nora, smiling maliciously. "What has the poor woman done? Have you been flirting with her, you bad boy?"

"No. But that is not mademoiselle's fault," Dallas retorts, sourly; and Lady Nora laughs heartily.

All the troubles of her life—and they have been neither few nor light—have not spoiled the music of Lady Nora's gay, sweet laugh.

"Poor Mademoiselle Glover—no, Gantier! I am so sorry you don't like her, Dallas!" she says, gayly. "I am delighted with her. And she will be a most useful, agreeable person to me, I have not the slightest doubt."

CHAPTER IV.

At three o'clock on the following day, in the golden warmth of the fair autumn afternoon, Lady Nora Glynne and her party meet at the Pont de Neque. She is looking deliciously cool and fresh, and wonderfully pretty in a dress of cream-tinted mousseline de laine, with a gleam of crimson satin here and there, and a big rustic chapeau of rough straw smothered in creamy lace and clusters of red currants. Her aide-de-camp, poor Mr. Dormer, is hot and anxious already, and his large white handkerchief comes into play every few minutes as he delightedly receives her ladyship's most radiant smiles and sweet little compliments, and trots about untiringly on her behalf. For Lady Nora had made up a little party of her own "set" to help to get through the afternoon with the Dormer "set," as she confidentially tells Dallas.

Mr. Dormer has entreated Lady Nora to allow him the pleasure of "ending on a few things for a little

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hit of a picnic luncheon," as he modestly phrases it; and Lady Nora has generally allowed him the pleasure. Consequently the worthy man has had a hot, busy morning in giving directions to the hotel-keeper and orders to servants, and in holding distracting conversations with shop-keepers who have not a word of English, as he has not a word of French except mercy—as he pronounces it—and Bong Jour!

But he has succeeded in hiring a luncheon tent, and has sent on to the appointed rendezvous, in an old orchard by the mill, a hamper of wine and another of cold fowl, galantine, tongue, rolls, salad, and pastry, enough for twenty people.

"I'll do the thing in style, Keren, while I'm about it," he says to his sister. "We'll show these grand folks we know what's what as well as they do."

So he has hired glass and silver, and damask and waiters, and gone to the expense of a dinner party for those whom, in his honest British toadyism, he calls "nob's."

Lady Jeanne Ormond and her brother-in-law, handsome George, are of the party.

"He is always so kind and attentive to his invalid brother's wife!" Lady Nora tells Miss Dormer, lest that simple old lady should see a little too clearly through her spectacles.

And there are a couple of military men as well.

"Brother officers of my boy's," Lady Nora explains, with her sweetly-maternal air.

One of them, however, is a colonel of fifty-five, and an old admirer of Lady Nora herself, the other a fortune-hunting Irishman, a major of forty, who has a heavy bet on winning an heiress before the spring meeting.

"So thoughtless of Dallas!" Lady Nora muses, vexedly. "I dare say he angled for an invitation when he knew this Dormer girl was coming. All the same, it is very tiresome; and I shall have to look after the man all the afternoon, and then Colonel Majilton will be as sulky and jealous as he can possibly be!"

And her ladyship sighs anxiously, and thinks what a good mother she is, and tries the effect of a tiny knot of crimson velvet in front of her chapeau, just over her hair; but she removes it the next minute, and decides for the dark, rich curly hair and delicately-tinted brunette face created by the soft, yellowish lace only.

"The 'sincerity' of the effect is perfect," Lady Nora says, well satisfied with the artistic appearance of her chapeau.

She is better satisfied than ever when she meets her friend, Lady Jeanne, who is a tall, coarse, showy blonde, loud voiced, laughing, loose lipped, and dressed in a fast-looking, unbecoming costume of blue and yellow plaid, with crumpled ribbons and laces. Lady Nora looks like a little tea rose beside a common overblown dahlia.

"Really Jeanne Ormond does not look quite proper!" Lady Nora murmurs to herself, with the severity of flawless virtue. "I thought George Ormond was too fastidious to allow her to adopt such bad style! He looks dreadfully envious—and no wonder!"

(To be continued.)

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Hints for Your Home.

When cheese becomes dry, steam it for half an hour over a saucepan of boiling water.

If a piece of crusty stale bread is put in the water in which onions are boiled it will prevent any smell.

There is nothing better for polishing the floor than old woollen stockings. Cut off the feet and rip up the seams.

If pipeclay to be used for cleaning purposes if mixed with milk it does not rub off, and cleans more effectively.

A Swine roll will never roll properly unless cooked to a "turn." The jam used should be warmed and the rolling done as speedily as possible.

Grease a cake-tin with suet. The cakes are not so likely to burn and will come out of the tin better than if butter is used. Lard is better than butter if suet is not available.

When it is desirable to stiffen silk or crepe-de-Chine add two or three lumps of sugar to the last rinsing water. Roll in a cloth after rinsing and iron while damp over a piece of muslin.

Meat will be hard, however good in quality it may be, if when being roasted it is not put for the first five minutes into an oven hot enough to seal the outside of the meat and so prevent the juices from escaping.

To remove a stain from wallpaper mix pipeclay and water to the thickness of cream. Lay a portion of the mixture on the spot, and allow it to remain until the following day, when it can be removed with a brush.

A screw that has been taken out and put in so often that finally it ceases to take a good grip of the wood should have a length of copper wire wound round the threads. This increases the diameter of the threaded part, and serves the same purpose as plugging the hole or using a larger screw.

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